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EXAMINER

VIRANY, LESLIE R

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 12 & 14 have been considered but are not persuasive.

In reference to claims 1, 12 & 14, in response to applicant's assertion (06/17/2009, p. 18) that Morimoto in view of Endo fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed subject matter reproduced on page 15 of the Remarks, Examiner maintains that Morimoto '122 teaches "wherein, if said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means [Morimoto teaches in §0083 favorite image of the operator in captured images can be registered as an "album registration] designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, then said display controlling means [Morimoto teaches a display controller in §0071: an overall control unit 50 of Fig. 2 including LCD 5] causes said resume pointer holding means [Endo '203 teaches resume pointer holding means in §0087: the controller 3 generates a group image management folder 610address of the image file management data for the first image in the group as the subordinate file pointer 613] to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while retrieving the picture resume pointer for said second picture group from said resume pointer holding means [note that Endo automatically and dynamically reloads the subordinate pointer for the representative image of each group but does not permit user control] in order to display anew the picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer." [note that Morimoto allows complex user-control of

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the representative image for each group but does not permit that the assignment of the representative image is done in some way automatically so as to prevent distracting the user from his task of browsing]

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include the resume pointer holding means of Endo with Morimoto 's display controller to enable automatic memory of the last-displayed image specific to each group as taught by Endo for the purpose of browsing freely through a plurality of image groups thereby permitting well-thought-out classification of each image as taught by Endo.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-11, 13, and 15 - 23 have been considered but are not persuasive.

In reference to claims 2-11, 13, and 15 -23, examiner maintains that Endo teaches picture group obtaining means for obtaining picture groups by sorting said picture data items according to the location information of which the picture data was acquired. [FIG. 6A camera 100 includes scope-of-group setting means 71 which sets a scope of group based on the image picking-up position data obtained from the image file 620 picking-up position determining means 72 which selects a representative image picking-up position for the group] Note further in Fig. 4 that image picking-up position data 623, as further described in §0056 of the spec provides positional spatial coordinates for sorting of images.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LESLIE VIRANY whose telephone number is (571)270-5893. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571)272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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